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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 000548

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT EASES EU
DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 79107

Classified By: Pol/Econ Chief Mary E. Daly for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) POL/ECON Chief met May 9 with Stephen Dawson, Deputy Director of the DFA's Middle East office, to discuss reftel. Dawson said that the formation of Iraq's interim government has made discussions of Iraq easier within the EU. Those who were opposed now felt they needed to give the elected transitional government a "fair run" and were thus more willing to see the EU adopt a positive attitude.

12. (C) Dawson said that the GOI would not issue a national statement to complement that of the EU. However, in a May 28th response to a parliamentarian's question, the DFA called formation of the ITG "an important milestone on the path to political reconstruction" and "the first time the Iraqis have had a government freely chosen by themselves." The note to parliament also discusses "the difficult security situation" and problems between Sunnis and Shia. Dawson said there were several reasons the Irish had not issued a national statement. For one, he said any statement supportive of the ITG would also have had to include references to the security situation and the ethnic composition of the government. The DFA felt doing so would diminish the impact of a positive statement on the ITG. Secondly, he said the Irish will have a logistical problem issuing statements while FM Ahern carries out his role as envoy for the UNSYG. The FM and the political director, he said, are traveling so much in their UN roles that coordination of such statements will be difficult. All things considered, he said, the DFA decided that the EU statement and the note to parliament offered sufficient support for now and they will look for future opportunities to issue positive statements on Iraq.

KENNY